APA Format Karissa Collier

Concluding Paragraph Connection Decade Paper

Sequential Development 19 November 2009

Point of View

Thesis Statement

Artist of the Decade

Michael Jackson is an inspiring person because his thirteen-minute-long “Thriller” is still acknowledged as the all-time-greatest music video (Pendergast, 2002). I am one of the millions who are inspired by the King of Pop. I love his music he had in the 1980’s. I think without his contributes the music industry wouldn’t be as enjoyable now a days. Michael Jackson was born in 1958 and at a young age became part of a musical group called the Jackson Fivewhich consisted of his four of his five brothers. He was the youngest of the group and also the lead singer of the group. His little sister, Janet, followed closely in his footsteps in the R&B genre of music. Michael took a quick turn however, when he started obsessing over his image and changing his looks constantly. He underwent many plastic surgeries throughout his lifetime. He is known for his skin becoming lighter during his years of living. The pop culture suffered a great loss this past summer when Michael died unexpectedly in his apartment. He changed the way of music and is known as the King of Pop for that and now we are left inspired by what he has done. I have looked up to Michael through all his achievements he made in the 1980’s. I think he has set a path for all young people to follow. If it wasn’t for a person like Michael Jackson, I could never listen to music the same.

In 1986, Michael Jackson was diagnosed with vitiligo and lupus (Michael Jackson, 2009). Vitiligo is a condition that makes patches of skin to become discolored. Lupus is a disease where the immune system ruins healthy tissue which results in inflammation and harms joints, skin and tissue. According to Wikipedia (2009) these diseases made Michael sensitive to light and the treatments he used for his condition lightened his skin more and he applied makeup to his face to hide the blotches. As a result, these made him appear very pale and loss all his color.

The album Thriller is what made Michael Jackson shape the music industry in the 1980s. MTV was created in 1981 and Jackson’s video “Thriller” was filmed in a graveyard and cost an estimated $1.1 million (Pendergast, 2002). He sold over 40 million copies of “Thriller”. This album consisted of three hits “Thriller”, “Billie Jean”, and “Beat it”. “Thriller” wasn’t the only popular song of Michael’s; “Billie Jean” skyrocketed in the early spring of, 1983, where it took number one on the *Billboard* charts and remained there for seven weeks (Pendergast, 2002). The album Thriller became the most commercially successful album of all time and the album remained in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 for 80 consecutive weeks and 37 of those weeks were at the peak position (Michael Jackson, 2009). It is still remaining to be the best- selling album in the United State by selling 110 million copies worldwide. This album didn’t have a promotional tour but instead held a Victory Tour that more than two million Americans saw. (Michael Jackson, 2009) However, he did do promotional interviews that were with reporters of Ebony, Newsweek, Interview, and The Rolling Stones which is very well known. (Pendergast, 2000)

MJ was known for wearing a distinctive sequined glove along with his signature dance move the moonwalk which he showed when he performed live on Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever (Michael Jackson 2009). A Soul Train dancer and Jeffery Daniel taught him this dance move three years prior to the show. This groundbreaking, breathtaking, dance steps is the famous moonwalk (Pendergast, 2002).

As you can see Michael Jackson has greatly impacted the music world in the 1980s. Even though many people criticized him you can’t deny his talent he has for vocals. Musicians to this day are inspired by what Michael has accomplished and contributed to the musical industry. However, he did take what the tabloids said to heart; he was self-conscious of his appearance at all times. He spent a lot of money on charities and he was invited to the White House to receive an award from President Ronald Reagan (Michael Jackson, 2009). Michael was describe by Time as a one-man rescue team for the music business, a songwriter who sets the beat for a decade, a dancer with the fanciest feet on the street, and a singer who cuts across all boundaries of taste and style and color too (Michael Jackson 2009). I wasn’t alive for the start of his career but his songs still lived. I think his death affected a lot of older listeners rather than younger, but still made an impact on me. His inspiration will live on in my heart. I will continue to represent the Jackson era. He impacted my life because of the way he changed the music industry and shaped MTV. I believe he shaped how music videos are made because of his advancements in the “Thiller” music video. In my eyes he is the best artist to come through because his achievements live on two decades later and after his death.